

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050371

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT KADUNA 0140 ACTION SECSTATE 08 FEB 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KADUNA 0140

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AO, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH NETO

FOR: THE SECRETARY, HABIB AND SCHAUFLE ONLY
FROM YOUNG

1. DURING MY 40 MINUTE MEETING WITH AGOSTINO NETO, I MADE
A POINT OF TELLING HIM THAT I HAD NO AUTHORIZATION TO
SPEAK OFFICIALLY ON BEHALF OF THE U.S. AND HAD AGREED TO
A MEETING SOLELY FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO LISTEN TO HIS VIEWS
ON AFRICAN ISSUES.

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2. NETO ACCEPTED THIS AND THEN TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO
RESTATE VIEWS HE HAS EXPRESSED ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS.

A. HE STATED THAT ANGOLA PLACES NO OBSTACLE IN THE PATH OF
NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND HAD SAID THIS ON
PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. HERETOFORE, THE U.S. HAS SET PRECONDITIONS

ON THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH ITS "FRIEND." ANGOLA HAD MADE NO SECRET OF THE FACT THAT INTERNALLY IT INTENDS TO PURSUE A SOCIALIST POLICY. HOWEVER, ANGOLA DOES NOT INTEND TO COMPROMISE ITS INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY. ANGOLA HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE USSR, EVEN THOUGH IT DOES NOT ALWAYS AGREE WITH SOVIET POLICIES. THERE IS NO REASON WHY ANGOLA CANNOT HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., EVEN THOUGH WE MAY NOT ALWAYS AGREE WITH AMERICAN POLICIES. ANGOLA RECENTLY ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, WHICH IS JUST AS CAPITALISTIC AS THE U.S. ANGOLA IS ALSO ON THE VERGE OF SENDING AN AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL. NETO STRESSED AGAIN, HOWEVER, THAT ALTHOUGH ANGOLA PLACES NO OBSTACLE IN THE PATH OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS, IT WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY PRECONDITIONS.

B. NAMIBIA: NETO SAID THAT, AS THE MPLA DISCOVERED IN ANGOLA, LIBERATION CANNOT BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT FORCE. THE UN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR NAMIBIA, BUT IN FACT THE UN IS POWERLESS TO ENFORCE ITS DECISIONS. THE STRUGGLE IN NAMIBIA IS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN COLONIALISM. ANGOLA WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE ITS FULL SUPPORT AND BACKING TO SWAPO'S ARMED STRUGGLE.

C. RHODESIA: IN ZIMBABWE NETO SAID, THERE ARE SEVERAL THOUSANDS WHITES WHO CLAIM TO BE NATIONALS OF THE COUNTRY. HOWEVER, WHEN WE (AFRICANS) TALK ABOUT ZIMBABWE, WE DO NOT SPEAK OF THE WHITES BUT RATHER OF THE AFRICANS TO WHOM THE COUNTRY RIGHTLY BELONGS. NETO SAID THAT RHODESIA WAS A BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY AND SHOULD REMAIN SO. BUT BRITAIN HAD DEMONSTRATED ITS POWERLESSNESS TO PREVENT SMITH'S U.D.I. AND TO END THE ILLEGAL REBELLION. THEREFORE ANGOLA
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WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ZIPA IN ITS STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION.
(COMMENT: IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER NETO'S REFERENCES TO ZIPA AND HIS FAILURE TO MENTION BY NAME THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS INTENTIONAL.)

D. SOUTH AFRICA: NETO SAID HE HAD NO VIEWS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF.

3. I TOLD NETO I THOUGHT THAT MANY PEOPLE MAY BE UNDERESTIMATING THE POTENTIAL FOR WIDESPREAD DESTRUCTION AND BLOODSHED IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IF VIOLENCE IS ALLOWED TO DRAG ON INDEFINITELY IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. THE CONSEQUENCES, NOT ONLY FOR ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA, BUT ALSO FOR NEIGHBORING BLACK AFRICAN STATES, COULD BE SERIOUS IN TERMS OF THEIR POLITICAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC PROSPECTS. I HOPED, THEREFORE, THAT NETO MIGHT RECONSIDER HIS ADVOCACY OF GUERRILLA STRUGGLE AS THE ONLY MEANS TO INDEPENDENCE AND THAT HE WOULD URGE SWAPO PARTICULARLY NOT TO FORECLOSE WHAT I BELIEVED TO BE A REAL POSSIBILITY FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. I THANKED NETO FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR HIS VIEWS AND TOLD HIM I WOULD REPORT THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR CONVERSATION TO WASHINGTON.

COMMENT: NETO INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD I WAS NOT PREPARED TO SPEAK OFFICIALLY AND DID NOT PRESS FOR ANY IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO HIS VIEWS. HE SEEMED SATISFIED MERELY TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET HIS VIEWS ACROSS TO A MEMBER OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.
BURKE UNQUOTE VANCE

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